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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**     September 1, 2003

**EXHIBITION:**     JASON RHOADES – *MECCATUNA*

**DATES:**             September 13 – October 25, 2003  
                             Reception: Friday, September 12, 6 to 8 PM

**MECCATUNA:** The act of taking a live bluefin tuna on a pilgrimage to the Holy City of Mecca to circumnavigate the Kabba, or

**MECCATUNA:** As in “the whole meccatuna,” an idiom for the entire universe and everything in it, similar to “the whole shebang,” or

**MECCATUNA:** Upon realizing that the word meccatuna did not exist, and that moving a live tuna would be met with great difficulty, the artist, through various contacts, located a man in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, that would drive to Mecca, buy a case of canned tuna, document its presence, and send this to the gallery in New York, via DHL.

The exhibition consists of the following:

**5 camel toe bones.** Enlarged from a pre-historic petrified camel toe found in Florida, purchased on e-Bay.

**5 life-size, white fiberglass donkeys.** From Gibbon, Nebraska, via Cowpainters.com.

**5 Mecca vulvas.** Polished aluminum, cast from tubes used in *Perfect World*.

**27 eight-count Ivory Snow PeaRoeFoam boxes.** Palletized.

**48 cans of Geisha tuna.** From the Holy City of Mecca.

**85 donkey cart ceramics.** Original post-WWII donkey cart ceramics. Mostly made in occupied Japan.

**550 vagina euphemisms.** Multicolored neon tubes mounted onto 227 translucent, colored plexiglass panels with lace, elastic, and coated wire. Each with an individual transformer.

**600 donkey cart ceramic copies.** Made in Guadalajara, Mexico. Post Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**2003 Honda XR50 motorcycle.**

**Camel saddle foot stools.** Collection of about 20 original post-WWII camel saddle stools, acquired from various locations, via e-Bay.

**Chrome “metro” shelves.** Copies in various configurations.

**Colored Snowball tires.** Red, blue, yellow. From *Snowball*, Venice Biennale, 1997.

**Donkey carts.** Original, life-size. Wood, steel, and rubber tire donkey carts from Guadalajara, Mexico.

**Ivory Snow PeaRoeFoam.** Various configurations.

**Gold Neon Transformer label.** Altered and translated.

**Heroic vagina sculpture.** From Ivory Snow PeaRoe.

**Kabba (cube) at Mecca.** First built by Adam, then reconstructed by Abraham, later by Ishmael, and then reconfigured by Mohammed as the holiest place in Islam. Hand-constructed at 1/3 scale, with Legos. 1 million Lego pieces on *Perfect World* tube armature.

**Lego.** “Creator”. 4107 (blue box). 1000, one thousand-piece sets. Total: 1 million parts.

**Los Feliz Costco/Wailing Wall.** Ivory Snow PeaRoe sculpture.

**Mecca model.** (With illuminated lamps). From Ivory Snow PeaRoe boxes.

**PeaRoeFoam ramp.** Constructed from *Waste Wedge*, from DZ Gallery exhibition *Impetuous Process*, 2002. With Arabic pop music.

**PeaRoeFoam wedge.** From *Impetuous Process*, 2002.

**PeaRoeFoam wheel.** From *The Liver Pool*, Liverpool Biennale, 2002.

**Perfect World tubes.** From *Perfect World*, Deichtorhallen, 1999.

**Tuna.** Various types. Live, fresh, and/or canned.